account of defective workmanship and design. The loss of generation from both the units of Farakka Super Thermal Power Project State-II on account of collapse of ESP Pass-D of Unit-IV is estimated at 3071 MUs and 144 MUs, respectively.

(d) Please refer to reply in part (b) and (c) above.

Letters written by M.Ps

5370. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from Ist April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies respectively?;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) As per the available information, 550 letters were received from Members of Parliament during the period from Ist April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995.

(b) Out of the above, 522 letters were acknowledged.

(c) and (d) Final replies were sent in respect of 448 letters including 232 in the positive and 216 in the negative.

Average Plant Load Factor in Eastern and North-Eastern Regions

5371. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the average Plant Load Factor (PLF) of thermal power plants, region-wise, during the first three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the average PLF in the case of Eastern and North-Eastern regions continues to be much lower than the all India average;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the performance of thermal power plants of these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) The region-wise average PLF of thermal power plants during the first three years of the Eight Five Year Plan i.e. 1992-93 to 1994-95 are given as under:—

Region/ All India	Plant Load Factor (%) 1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
North Region	62.0	64.0	59.1
Western Region	59.7	63.4	63.8
Southern Region	62.6	68.3	69.1
Eastern Region	39.8	44.8	43.7
North-Eastern Region	24.3	19.9	26.7
All India	57.1	61.0	60.0

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Main reasons for low Plant Load Factor in Eastern & North Eastern Regions are delay in stablisation of new Units, high rate of planned and forced outages, non-implementation of preventive as well as annual & capital maintenance schedules etc.

(d) To improve the performance of Thermal Power Stations in the Eastern & North-Eastern Regions, a capacity of 460.5MW at Bongaigaon (240 MW), Chandrapur (30 MW), Kathalguri & Lakwa (79 MW) and Namrup (111.5 MW) Thermal Power Stations, has been covered under the Renovation and Modernisation (Phase-II) programme.